

Economic Development Planning Council
January 19, 2016
9:43 a.m. to 10:27 a.m.
1 Union Street
Providence

Present

1. Barbara Schoenfeld
2. Bob Mancini
3. Elizabeth Lynn
4. John Kennedy
5. John Simmons
6. Laurie White
7. Macky McCleary
8. Michael DiBiase
9. Neil Steinberg
10. Richard Horan
11. Scott Jensen
12. Stefan Pryor (chair)

Absent

1. Cliff Grimm
2. Dale Venturini
3. David Sullivan
4. Donald Grebien
5. James Purcell
6. Juana Horton
7. Ken Wagner
8. Michael Sabitoni
9. Peter Alviti
10. Russell Carey

Minutes

- Secretary Pryor introduced the meeting and identified the two objectives as reviewing the Brookings report and discussing how it would be best utilized to guide state economic development policy
- Bruce Katz from the Brookings Institution made the case that Rhode Island is small enough to make big progress in short order in turning around its economy
- Mark Muro from the Brookings Institution then summarized the specific findings of the report and opened the meeting for questions
- Laurie White said she was proud the state was drawing from rigorous analyses and best practice policies and was looking forward to helping implement the new plan
- Neil Steinberg made the case that a wide array of stakeholders must pitch in the implement the report's findings effectively and reach all the populations that ought to be reached
- Scott Jensen added that it was in fact a moral imperative that we include all groups
- Macky McCleary echoed Bruce Katz's introductory point, explaining that in this case, "it is big to be small."
- Secretary Pryor asked that the Council adopt the report, along with a definition of "fragile industries" informed by Brookings' report, that includes industries with deep roots in Rhode Island that are vulnerable nonetheless
 - The industries identified as fragile were manufacturing and logistics and seafood
- Barbara Schoenfeld asked what the next steps were in implementing this report; Secretary Pryor responded that many of these programs would soon appear in the Governor's budget proposal

- Richard Horan echoed the compliments of earlier speakers and described the report as data driven, ambitious, and with a healthy focus on engaging the private sector
- Scott Jensen underlined that this is now the Rhode Island Plan, not the Brookings, Battelle, or Deloitte Plan, and that we now ought to act accordingly
- Secretary Pryor moved, seconded by Laurie White, that the report and fragile industry resolution should be adopted. All attendees voted in the affirmative with no abstentions or dissenting votes. The resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- The meeting was adjourned.

Exhibit A

RESOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL

Dated: January 19, 2016

Be it resolved by the Economic Development Planning Council (the “Council”) as follows:

The Council hereby adopts the report entitled Rhode Island Innovates: A Competitive Strategy for the Ocean State (the “Report”), a copy of which is annexed to this resolution as Exhibit A, as the written long-term economic development vision and policy and strategic plan required under Rhode Island General Laws § 42-64.17-1.

The Council hereby finds that, based on the Report and the data included therein, the following shall constitute targeted industries for the purposes of Rhode Island’s economic development strategy and incentive programs:

- Biomedical Innovation
- IT/Software, Cyber-Physical Systems, and Data Analytics
- Defense Shipbuilding and Maritime
- Advanced Business Services
- Design, Food, and Custom Manufacturing
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- Arts, Education, Hospitality, and Tourism

The Council hereby finds that, based on the Report and the data included therein, the following shall constitute economically fragile industries for the purposes of Rhode Island’s economic development strategy and incentive programs:

- Manufacturing and Logistics (including but not limited to processing, refining, metalworking, packaging, warehousing, shipping, and distribution)
- Seafood (including but not limited to harvesting, growing, and processing)

The Council hereby finds that changing economic/market conditions or other factors may make it advisable for the Council to reconvene in the future to reconsider the Report and/or the targeted industries and/or economically fragile industries identified herein.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Council.